

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 9 with the following amended paragraph to fix a typographical error:

“In one general aspect, a computer system stores digital images within a computer system by identifying a first storage facility and a directory within the first storage facility for storing a digital image; generating a first image identifier associated with the first storage facility and the directory; generating a second image identifier comprising a random number; generating a unique hash value by encrypting the first and second image identifiers; and identifying a storage path using the first and second image identifiers and the unique hash value such that related digital images have unrelated storage paths. The unique hash value may be generated by applying the MD5 algorithm or the DES ~~DEC~~ algorithm to the first and second image identifiers.”

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 16 with the following amended paragraph to fix a typographical error:

“After a particular directory with the storage facility has been identified (step 520), a first image identifier is generated (step 525). In general, the host system 20 generates a first image identifier associated with the identified storage facility and directory. In one implementation, the host system 20 includes an image write server 2414 that generates a first image identifier corresponding to the identified storage facility and directory. One example, of a first image identifier is an 8 hexadecimal (32 bit) character string in which the first three hexadecimal characters correspond to the storage facility, the next three hexadecimal characters correspond to the directory, and the last two hexadecimal characters correspond to an encryption method. Typically, the groups of hexadecimal characters corresponding to the storage facility, directory, and encryption are coded. To illustrate, an example of a first image identifier (image_id_p1) is FEDCBA98. The characters FED correspond to a particular storage facility, for example, the image storage server 2412 named ygppics-d01.blue.isp.com. In this illustration, the characters CBA correspond to a directory within the particular storage facility, for example, the main

storage directory 010. The characters 98 correspond to an encryption method, for example, the MD5 algorithm or DES ~~DEC~~ algorithm.”

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 8 with the following amended paragraph to fix a typographical error:

“Then, a unique hash value is generated by encrypting the first and second image identifiers (step 535). In general, the host system 20 encrypts the first and second image identifiers and returns a hash value. In one implementation, the host system 20 includes an image write server 2414 that encrypts the first and second image identifiers according to a selected encryption method (e.g., MD5, DES ~~DEC~~). One example of an encryption method involves applying the MD5 algorithm to the first and second image identifiers represented as a single character string (e.g., a single 16 hexadecimal character string). To illustrate according to the above example, the first image identifier (image_id_p1) and the second image identifier (image_id_p2) can be represented as the 16 hexadecimal character string, e.g., FEDCBA9876543210. A unique hash value is returned when the MD5 algorithm is applied to this character string. “